



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ORIENTAL FRUIT FLIES FOUND IN LA MESA *Treatment Being Applied, No Quarantine Area Needed for Now*

Three Oriental Fruit Flies have been discovered in La Mesa, triggering treatments to eradicate the insect. Approximately 11.5 square miles in the city of La Mesa are being treated. The treatment is known as "male annihilation" and has repeatedly proven successful.

At the present time, no quarantine has been declared. Treatments will be reapplied every 14 days (weather permitting) for a minimum of approximately six weeks.

The "male annihilation" treatment consists of workers applying a small patch of a pheromone attractant mixed with a very small dose of pesticide to poles or trees, approximately eight feet off the ground. The males are attracted to the pheromone, consume the pesticide and die before they can mate. A minimum of four applications will be done.

Homeowners and people moving through the La Mesa area are urged not to remove fruits and vegetables from the area as backyard fruits may be infested.

The Oriental Fruit Fly is known to harm more than 230 different fruits, vegetables, and plants. Damage occurs when the female lays eggs inside the fruit. The eggs hatch into maggots that tunnel through the flesh of the fruit, making it unfit for consumption.

This destructive pest was first found in California in 1960. A number of major infestations throughout the state have been successfully eradicated since then.

If you suspect you have Oriental Fruit Flies, you can call the **CDFA PEST HOTLINE at 1-800-491-1899 or 619-698-1046**. If your yard contains fruit trees and you would like to have a fruit fly trap placed on your property call, **1-800-300-8727 (TRAP)**. For more information on Oriental Fruit Fly, visit the CDFA web site: http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/pdep/oreintal_ff_profile.htm.

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